



Digital Equity
Program Refinement Proposal

City of Tacoma | Information Technology Department
Government Performance and Finance Committee
May 17, 2022

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OVERVIEW

- Council goals for Digital Equity and the supporting Digital Equity Program are due for review.
- As a follow-up to the April 19th briefing, ITD staff will present issues and recommendations around existing program focus as well as opportunities for advancement.

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BACKGROUND



- On April 19th, 2022, staff provided an update to GPFC detailing the overall progress of the Digital Equity Program.
- Program review included the chosen framework, scope, and significant activities and accomplishments.
- Feedback collected from the presentation has been incorporated into a recommendation to the Committee for affirmation of and updates to program goals.

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ISSUES



Opportunities in our “Area of Control” (City directs)

- Improve accessibility to:
 - The City’s digital presence
 - Online transactions conducted through the City
 - Methods of hybrid (digital/physical) engagement to City resources
- Infrastructure planning
 - Dedicate wiring/fiber conduit in all public works projects to enable future digital equity efforts

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ISSUES



Opportunities in our “Area of Concern” (City influences)

- Commit resources to identify and be responsive to opportunities for advocacy for both competitive markets and direct services:
 - Federal infrastructure bills
 - State laws
 - City requirements, e.g. franchise or multifamily housing agreements

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NEXT STEPS



- **Check for concurrence** – does the GPFC support increased organizational investment to address the identified issues?
- **Check for concurrence** – does the GPFC support maintaining current practice of supporting public access, e.g. via the TEMS sites and wayfinding website?
- **City Council Study Session** – TBD on direction of GPFC. How should we best incorporate into broader Council strategy process?

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